



HIV / AIDS AWARENESS AMONG EDUCATED WORKING MOTHERS OF ADOLESCENTS IN MEDICAL PROFESSION OF URBAN AND RURAL

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to find out aids awareness among mothers of adolescents in relation of medical profession. The universe of the study is Punjab, which comprises of 19 districts out of which two Districts Ludhiana and Gurdaspur were taken randomly. The sample consisted of 100 (50 mothers of adolescents belonging to urban and 50 belonging to rural) were selected on the basis of randomly. The tool was employed AIDS AWARENESS TEST by Dr. Ravinder Kaur (Ex Principal of Malwa Central College of Education for Women, Ludhiana) to assess the knowledge of AIDS Awareness among educated working mothers of adolescents. The result revealed that there was no significant difference between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession in urban and rural areas.

KEY WORDS: Aids Awareness, Medical Profession Mothers, Adolescents.

INTRODUCTION:

The word AIDS, consisting of just four alphabets, is the most dangerous disease today.. It is a fatal illness caused by a retrovirus known as the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) which breaks down the body's immune system, leaving the victim vulnerable to a host of life threatening opportunistic infections, neurological disorders or unusual malignancies. Among the special features of HIV infections are that once infected, it is probable that a person will be infected for life. This virus is mainly present in body fluids viz. blood, semen and vaginal fluids etc. Since this virus cannot survive for long periods outside the body fluids, it limits the transmission of infection only to occasions when direct contact with these fluids occurs. So, the infection is transmitted when the virus in the body fluids comes in contact with the blood and/or mucous membranes of an exposed person. Hence, AIDS can be transmitted from an infected person to a healthy person through sexual contact, blood transfusion, use of contaminated needles and also from an infected mother to the foetus.

Today, there is estimated 34-46 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. India with 4 million known carriers has the second largest number of HIV patients after South Africa. There is a shifting trend of the AIDS epidemic in India, which is shifting from the highest risk group (commercial sex workers, homosexual men, drug users) to general public. The existing trends indicate that HIV infection is spreading in two ways: from urban to rural areas and from high-risk groups to general public. Data from antenatal clinics indicate rising HIV prevalence among women, which, in turn, contributes to increasing HIV infection in children. It is estimated that 30,000 children are born every year with HIV-infection. Globally, in 2012, there were 35.3 million people living with HIV. It is an estimated 36 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses, Worldwide; women comprise 52% of all people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries. The total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India is estimated to be 21 lakh in 2011. Despite higher levels of awareness, men are more affected than women – both in absolute numbers and proportionally. Of the 2.1 million HIV/AIDS affected people across India, 1.26 million (60%) are men, according to National AIDS Control Organisation's (NACO) India HIV Estimations Report 2015.

Adolescence, being an important crucial stage of the life of a child, needs to be dealt with care. There is an added responsibility of the mothers especially to cater to their child's needs and enable him to adjust to the rapid changes in the environment. The presence of mothers is must to offer love, sympathy affection, security to the child and to answer all questions of her adolescent children in a free, frank, judicious, and scientific manner, otherwise the child will be misled by bad company, cheap, literature, low grade films and cheap websites.

It is seen that education is an important factor to provide young people, with the required knowledge of how to prevent the spread of AIDS, help them to make a responsible choice and adopt a healthy life style. so, we can say that along with doctors, counsellors, school teachers, the role of mothers especially educated working mothers is of crucial importance for this stupendous task.

Goyal, R.C *et.al.* (1994) studied AIDS awareness in rural community and found that only 35.82% of respondents claimed to have knowledge about AIDS. It shows that AIDS awareness among rural community in Ahmednagar is not encouraging and hence all efforts should be made to educate rural people about AIDS.

Kubde, S.S. *et. al.* (1995) carried out a cross sectional study to assess the awareness of nursing students regarding AIDS. Nursing students were from Government Medical College, Nagpur. The study revealed that 80.9% of the students knew that AIDS is a life threatening disease. The overall knowledge regarding etiology, risk factors, transmission, treatment and prevention of AIDS was confusing among the nursing students.

Mittal, M. *et. al.* (1995) conducted a study regarding AIDS awareness amongst women of an urban slum in New Delhi, in close vicinity of Maulana Azad Medical College. Out of total 210 women interviewed, only 5.7% had heard about AIDS.

Avert (2006) conducted survey on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria in 2003. It showed that 3.3 million were living with HIV, of these 1.9 million (57%) were females. Females had lower awareness of HIV/AIDS as compared to their counterpart's male.

Ghosh *et.al.*, (2009), studied how vulnerability to HIV/AIDS applies to women in the reproductive age range living in the slum areas of Delhi and Hyderabad. The result revealed that there was greatly attributed to their unstable socio-economic conditions and low AIDS awareness. It also revealed that the women have lacked of education, low empowerment in expressing and accessing information related to sexual matters and poverty as key factors to vulnerability.

Mishra R. 2002 : A cross sectional study conducted on urban and rural population in Kargil, regarding the awareness of HIV / AIDS mode of transmission. The study results reveal that 26.86 percent of population had higher level of knowledge, 73.1 percent never heard of the disease had no idea about its causation. In contrast, 76.66 percent was clueless in rural population, 13.48 percent illicit sex, 11.24 percent blamed use of contaminated syringes 1 percent related HIV / AIDS to an infected mother.

Jaya M. (2001) undertook a study in Chennai to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of different category of nursing personnel on HIV/AIDS. The study was carried out among 300 urban and rural student nurses from primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The results revealed that the rural student nurses have more knowledge than urban nurses.

Mbugua, N. (2007) conducted a study on factors inhibiting educated mothers in Kenya from giving meaningful sex education to their daughters. The findings indicate that most educated mothers in urban Kenya experience socio-cultural and religious inhibitions that hinder them from providing meaningful sex education to their pre-adolescent and adolescent daughters.

Dhasaradhan (2001) conducted a study to assess the knowledge and attitude of nurses towards HIV/AIDS patient in Employee State Insurance Hospital, Chennai. Samples of 100 were selected. A multiple-choice questionnaire of 35 question related to AIDS was asked. For attitude a five point likert type scale was used. The study shows that knowledge and attitude of nurses in relation to the care of AIDS patients is moderately adequate.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

To compare AIDS Awareness among educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession of Urban and Rural area.

HYPOTHESES:

There exists no significant difference in AIDS Awareness between urban and rural educated mothers of adolescents working in medical profession

Sample:

The study was conducted on the sample of 100 educated working mothers related to medical profession out of which 50 belong to urban and 50 belong to rural area were selected on the basis of random sampling. The study was delimited to Ludhiana and Gurdaspur District.

Tool for collection data:

The tool was employed Aids Awareness Test by Dr. Ravinder Kaur (Ex Principal of Malwa Central College of Education for Women, Ludhiana) to assess the knowledge of AIDS among educated working mothers of adolescents

Procedure:

The present study aims to find out the aids awareness among educated mothers of adolescents. For this purpose descriptive survey method was employed. The scale of aids awareness was administered to the educated mothers of adolescents those who were working in Medical profession after obtaining prior permission from the higher authorities of these institutions.

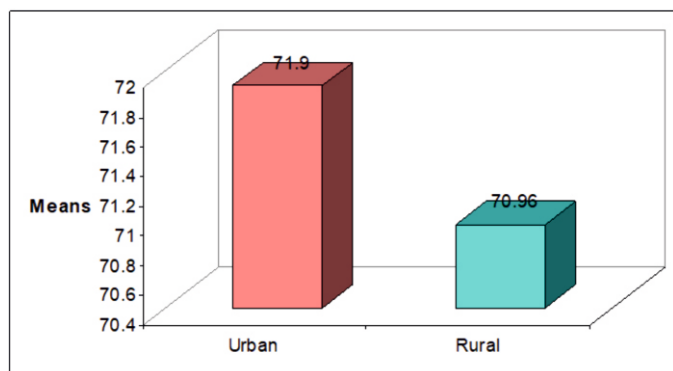
Analysis and interpretation

Table 1: Significance of the Difference between Means of AIDS Awareness of Educated Working Mothers of Adolescents in Medical Profession in Urban and Rural Areas

| S. No. | Group | N | M | S.D | SEM | t-value |
|--------|-------|----|-------|-------|------|---------|
| 1. | Urban | 50 | 71.90 | 10.33 | 1.46 | 0.43 |
| 2. | Rural | 50 | 70.96 | 10.31 | 1.46 | |

Table 1 revealed that the mean scores of AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession in urban and rural areas as 71.90 and 70.96 respectively and their standard deviation as 10.33 and 10.31 respectively. The t-ratio was calculated as 0.43 which is not significant at .01 level of confidence. This revealed that no significant difference exists between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession in urban and rural areas. Therefore the hypothesis stating that there exists no significant difference between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession in urban and rural areas stands accepted.

Fig. 1 Bar Graph showing Difference of Means of AIDS Awareness of Educated Working Mothers of Adolescents in Medical Profession in Urban and Rural Areas.

**CONCLUSION:**

No significant difference exists between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in medical profession in urban and rural areas.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The results that have accrued from the present study can be helpful to the curriculum planners in designing curricular activities of pre service training course for teachers in order to enhance AIDS awareness among teacher trainees.
- Since it has been found that Newspapers are the best source of information for teacher trainees about AIDS, it would be opt to suggest that the colleges, especially the Colleges of Education, should conduct seminars, workshops and extension lectures for the promotion of awareness about AIDS.
- It is suggested that AIDS exhibitions and AIDS quizzes in the exhibition seminars should be conducted for mothers' students should be frequently organized.

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